

TRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES OF
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AD-
MINISTRATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the employees of the Transportation Security Administration.

When Congress created the TSA, we intended to form a security force that could quickly adapt and respond to crises in order to protect our nation's transportation system.

On August 10, 2006, TSA demonstrated that it can perform its mission admirably.

As we now know, 21 terrorists from London were conspiring to detonate liquid explosives aboard transatlantic flights bound for the United States. They wanted to create a catastrophe that could have rivaled the horror of September 11th. Though their plot was foiled, the event should serve to remind us that we must remain vigilant in the ongoing war against terror.

The TSA's response to this imminent threat helped guide our nation through that crisis. In the evening hours of August 9, 2006, TSA quickly responded. As British authorities began arresting the terrorist suspects, TSA altered its screening to ensure that the plot would be foiled.

Within four hours—before the first flight took off on August 10th—TSA implemented new security procedures, trained and deployed more than 43,000 Transportation Security Officers to execute these new procedures, and deployed Federal Air Marshals to multiple locations overseas. The dedication that the employees of TSA demonstrated in response to this terrorist plot should not be forgotten.

Notably, the work attendance for Transportation Security Officers on August 10th was an all-time high in the history of TSA. As one Federal Security Director recalled, "All our security officers came in; every single one of them. Anytime something happens . . . you have to fight them off. Mission is never our problem."

On this anniversary of that failed attempt of terror, I want to thank the employees of the Transportation Security Administration. We owe them great gratitude.

RECOGNIZING PROVIDENCE HOOD
RIVER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL'S 75
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the honor associated with the United States House of Representatives to Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital. On August 4, 2007, the hospital, located at 13th and May Streets in my hometown of Hood River, Oregon, will officially celebrate 75 years of service. I was fortunate enough to serve on the hospital's Board of Directors for five years and that experience provided me the opportunity to see firsthand the dedication and commitment of the staff and administration to the health of the entire community.

At the turn of the 20th century, 622 people inhabited Hood River. The advent of the railroad transformed this once isolated community into a hub for some of the nation's finest timber and fruit producers. Within five years, the population tripled. Today, 20,500 people call Hood River County home and timber and fruit produces remain a significant element of the region's fabric but so do windsurfers, skiers and hikers.

In 1905, local physicians came together to open Cottage Hospital at 716 Oak Street. Hood River's first hospital served the community for 19 years, before it was declared structurally unsafe and closed by the fire marshal in 1924.

Although a disappointing loss to the community, the closure of Cottage Hospital set into motion a tremendous local commitment to health care that carries on today. The Hood River Hospital Association organized for the purpose of building a new community hospital to replace Cottage Hospital. Successful fundraising efforts netted enough money to begin construction on a new hospital in 1931. Hood River Hospital admitted 501 patients during its first year of operation in 1932.

In the late 1940s, Hood River Hospital's surgery department owned all the latest equipment: an operating table, a spotlight, basins, forceps, knives, probes, clips and clamps. However, the medical field did not yet know the convenience of disposable items. Following surgery, rubber gloves were washed, dried and powdered to sterilize them. Surgery needles were sharpened, sterilized and re-used.

As the population of Hood River grew after World War II, the patient population soon outpaced hospital capacity. The residents of Hood River swung into action again and with generous donations from community members the hospital was enlarged in 1958. In response to the abundant donations that were made in memory of those whose lives were touched by the hospital, the name of the facility was officially changed to Hood River Memorial Hospital.

A cycle was becoming clear; every two to three decades the hospital outgrew its space and an expansion was necessary to keep pace with the needs of patients and technological advancements. It happened in the late 1950s and again in the 1980s when community donations allowed for the construction of new patient care wings. In the 1990s the hospital footprint was expanded, allowing for the addition of a new family birthing center and the Ray T. Yasui Dialysis Center, the first dialysis center in the Columbia Gorge. All of these efforts were made possible by unwavering donations of time, talent and treasure from the Hood River community.

As Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital celebrates 75 years in a structure that no longer physically resembles the original hospital that opened its doors in 1932, another much-needed expansion and renovation project begins. This new phase of development will feature a new entrance and lobby. It also will allow the diagnostic imaging department to operate from one location. The short stay surgery department will be transformed to include 18 private rooms. The family birthing center will add a dedicated cesarean section operating room and other features to comfort laboring mothers.

Construction is set to begin in the fall and should be completed in about a year. At that

time, the current building will be renovated and modernized to include a 10 bed rehabilitation center which will allow patients who have experienced a stroke or heart attack to recover and rehabilitate close to home.

Milestones such as anniversaries cause us to pause and reflect on history, achievements and the individuals that contributed to the successes that have brought us to where we are today. Madam Speaker, indeed it is important for us to celebrate milestones. However, it is my hope that we will all strive to acknowledge the extraordinary care and compassion that is provided each and every day by those who staff and support community hospitals throughout the year, not just during milestone celebrations.

My colleagues, please join me in congratulating Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital for their exemplary service over the past 75 years and in wishing them very well as they break ground on the next 75 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to vote on the amendment offered by Mr. SESSION to H.R. 3093 (rollcall No. 721) on Wednesday, July 25, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF THE
KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize establishment of a memorial at Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai, HI, to honor the memory and sacrifices of the some 8,000 Hansen's disease patients who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa peninsula between 1866 and 1969. I want to thank my friend and colleague Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE for cosponsoring this legislation.

The policy of exiling persons with the disease that was then known as leprosy began under the Kingdom of Hawaii and continued under the governments of the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii. Children, mothers, and fathers were forcibly separated and sent to the isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa, which for most of its history could only be accessed by water or via a steep mule trail. Children born to parents at Kalaupapa were taken away from their mothers and sent to orphanages or to other family members outside of Kalaupapa. Hawaii's isolation laws for people with Hansen's disease were not repealed until 1969, even though medications to control the disease had been available since the late 1940s.

While most of us know about the sacrifices of Father Damien, who dedicated his life to care for those exiled to Kalaupapa, fewer know of the courage and sacrifices of the patients who were torn from their families and